

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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SOUTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE
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October 28, 2008

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, PO Box 200801, Helena MT 59620-0801
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 2 Headquarters, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59804
Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners, 215 S 4th St. Suite A Hamilton MT 59840 ✓
Laura Hendrix, Ravalli County Floodplain 215 S 4th St. Suite F Hamilton MT 59840
Union Ditch Company, Inc. George Dayton 3035 Eastside Hwy Stevensville MT 59870
Tucker Crossing Ranch Hamilton MT 59840-2816
Janel Favero, DNRC Centralized Services jfavero@mt.gov
Paul Moore, DNRC Hamilton Unit Manager pmoore@mt.gov

Double Fork Ranch, LLC has submitted an application for a land use license which would authorize repair and construction of a cross-vein diversion structure with sediment sluice, to be located on the Bitterroot River, serving the purpose of diversion for what is commonly known as the Tucker headgate. The proposed project is located within Section 8, Township 7 North, Range 20 West, in the W1/2 W1/2 SE1/4.

The purpose of the repair and re-construct is to replace the current check dam with a w-weir that will allow continual flow of the Bitterroot, while still serving to divert water for permitted water rights into the Tucker headgate. The improved design will allow fish passage. Recreational passage will improve, reducing the need to portage around the current dam.

This project requires multiple permits. In addition to a land use license from the Montana DNRC, a floodplain permit is required from the Ravalli County Floodplain office, along with a 310 permit from the Bitterroot Conservation District.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act to assess potential impacts of proposed activities on state lands to the human and physical environment. Public comments on this project are being sought in order to complete that assessment.

Public comment will be taken for 7 days (through midnight November 4, 2008). This request for public comment is also being posted on the DNRC website at http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/about_us/notices.asp

Comments may be submitted by email at dboruch@mt.gov. You may also mail written comments to SWLO-DNRC, Attn: Dana Boruch 1401 27th Avenue, Missoula MT 59804.

Handwritten signature of Dana M. Boruch.

Dana M. Boruch
Right-of-Way Specialist
Southwestern Land Office

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2008

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Beth-
email to
L. Hendrix
DNX
Glenda